

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04081 240940Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /080 W
-----057314 240941Z /10

R 240705Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8584
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 4081

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, KU, EG, LY
SUBJECT: INITIAL KUWAITI PRESS REACTION TO EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CLASH

1. INITIAL KUWAITI PRESS REACTION TO THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CLASH
HAS LARGELY TENDED TOWARD STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTING OF WHAT FACTS (AND ALLEGATIONS) AS ARE AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH EGYPT IS CLEARLY COMING OUT AS THE BAD GUY AND BIG BULLY. ONE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER EDITORIALY PLACED THE BLAME SQUARELY ON EGYPT. THE ARABIC PRESS, WHICH CARRIES GREATER WEIGHT AND HENCE MUST TREAD MORE CAREFULLY TO AVOID RUNNING AFOUL OF PRESS RESTRICTIONS ON COMMENTS ABOUT INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS, HAS IMPLIED THAT EGYPT MUST ACCEPT THE PREPONDERANCE OF BLAME. HEADLINES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY SUCH PHRASES AS: "A FULL EGYPTIAN INVASION;" "TRIPOLI: EGYPT HAS BOMBED JAMAL "ABD AL-NASIR AIR BASE AND DROPPED PARATROOPS;" "AIR-LAND ATTACK ON LIBYA." EDITORIALY, THE LOCAL ARABIC PRESS HAS BEMOANED THE FURTHER SPILLING OF ARAB BLOOD, THE DIVERSION OF ATTENTION FROM THE "REAL" ARAB ENEMY, AND CALLS FOR FIGHTING TO BE HALTED IMMEDIATELY. INTERESTINGLY, THE NEWSPAPER GENERALLY CONCEDED TO BE FARTHEST TO THE LEFT IN
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KUWAIT, AL-WATAN, DID NOT EVEN ATTEMPT TO EDITORIALY APPORTION BLAME, BUT MERELY COMMENTED ON THE POOR COVERAGE OF THE LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN EVENTS BY GOVERNMENT-OPERATED RADIO AND TELEVISION.

2. COMMENT:
KUWAIT PRESS REACTION CLEARLY REFLECTS THE GOK PRESS RESTRICTIONS

WHICH ARE NOW ALMOST ONE YEAR OLD. PRIOR TO AUGUST
1976, AN EVENT SUCH AS THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CLASHES
WOULD HAVE PROVOKED AN ACERBIC FLOOD OF PRESS COMMENT
FOR BOTH SIDES. NOW HOWEVER, THE PRESS IS CAREFULLY
STANDING BACK AWAITING A PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF GOK
POLICY, WHICH WILL NO DOUBT BE BLAND AND CONCILIATORY
TOWARD ALL SIDES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ALLEGATIONS IN
THE PRESS THAT FOREIGN POWERS ARE INVOLVED IN THE CLASHES BEYOND
PREDICTABLE HINTS THAT SUCH ACTIVITY ONLY SERVES TO
AID THE COMMON ARAB ENEMY.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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